



State of Louisiana

RELEASE

Office of the Governor
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GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL

FOR IMMEDIATE

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Governor Bobby Jindal Declares State of Emergency for Severe Cold Weather

BATON ROUGE - Today, Governor Bobby Jindal issued the following executive proclamation declaring a state of emergency as a result of severe cold weather since January 7, 2010 and that is forecasted to continue until January 13.

STATE OF EMERGENCY – FREEZING TEMPERATURES:

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the state of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a State of Emergency by Executive Order or Proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has experienced severe cold weather since January 7, 2010 and severe cold weather conditions are forecasted to continue statewide until on or about January 13, 2010;

WHEREAS, the statewide severe cold weather conditions have seriously degraded or damaged a number of water systems which serve local jurisdictions, and as a result several Parishes have issued declarations of emergency and are requesting support from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) for potable water and other support to assist Parishes in responding to the adverse effects of the cold

weather. GOHSEP is currently monitoring the affects which the freezing conditions are having on the entire state and expects that there will be additional requests for assistance as the severe cold weather continues; and

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that other assistance may be needed to assist Parishes in their response to the adverse effects of the severe cold weather; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist statewide as a result of the extended period of severe cold weather that has and continues to impact the State and the threat of additional damages that continues to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe cold weather.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from January 11, 2010 thru February 9, 2010, unless terminated sooner.

/S/ Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

/S/ Jay Dardenne
SECRETARY OF STATE